



Michigan STEP Program

Michigan is once again offering the STEP program to fifth grade classes with the goal of educating 2,400 students statewide in the STEP curriculum during the 2012-2013 school year.

Getting Involved

- All fifth grade classes in Michigan are eligible to participate in the STEP program, with the requirement that all fifth-graders in the school must participate.
- Getting involved is as simple as submitting an application to the Michigan State Police **by Monday, October 1, 2012.**
- Teachers or administrators may apply to participate in the STEP program on behalf of their school, although an administrator will have to approve participation in the program.
- Selection of school participants will be completed by late October.
- Once selected, STEP materials will be distributed to schools by the end of November.
- Instruction of STEP curriculum must be completed by the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

Selection Criteria

In support of the program's objectives, schools will be selected to participate in the Michigan STEP program based on three primary criteria:

1. Participation of all fifth grade classes in the school
2. Geographic distribution throughout Michigan
3. Date of application submission

In Step with STEP

Schools participating in the STEP program will be required to sign an agreement indicating all fifth-graders in the school (not just one or two classrooms) will be taught at least the core one-hour STEP curriculum. Schools are also required to participate in a survey evaluating the STEP program following completion.

Teacher Testimonial

"The program was very informational. The kids got very excited about it. It's things that families don't generally think about doing with their students, but now they are definitely more aware of what to do in an emergency situation."

-Ms. Alica Smullen, Pansophia Academy, Coldwater, MI

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Michigan State Police
Emergency Management &
Homeland Security Division

FEMA



STEP

Student Tools for
Emergency Planning

What is STEP?

The Student Tools for Emergency Planning program, known as STEP, is a simple and effective preparedness education project developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). STEP is designed to educate fifth-graders on the importance of preparing for emergencies and provide students with the knowledge to help their families prepare.

Learning Objectives

- Students will learn general knowledge about disasters common to their area.
- Students will assemble emergency kits to help their families.
- Students will form communication plans with their families.

STEP Curriculum

STEP lesson materials are ready to use as they were designed by teachers, for teachers. Materials include instructor guides, DVDs, copies of student handouts and starter kit backpacks for all participating students. All materials are provided – at no cost to the school.

Teachers are required to dedicate at least one hour to teach the core lesson with streamlined objectives for a manageable time commitment in the classroom. STEP materials include up to 8 hours of optional lessons, to meet national standards and include math, language arts, science and performing arts.

Success of STEP

Michigan began offering STEP in 2012, teaching more than 350 students. STEP has continued growing statewide, with more than 2,200 fifth-graders already registered to learn the importance of preparedness during the 2012-2013 school year.

While only one-hour of instruction is required, some teachers choose to teach 5-8 hours of STEP lessons. If a school needs assistance with teaching the curriculum, they are encouraged to reach out to the STEP state coordinator, local first responders, or Citizen Corps volunteers.



A staple part of the core STEP lesson is a live-action video, called Disaster Dudes, outlining preparedness strategies in an engaging and age-appropriate way. The video shows how kids can prepare for a disaster by being aware of dangers in their area, building an emergency supply kit, and talking with their families to plan for different scenarios.

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